

REMARKS

This amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and is in response to the Advisory Action mailed November 5, 2004.

Claim 1, 10 and 11 been amended. Claims 1-18 and 21-24 remain in the case, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Drawings

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his approval of the replacement drawings provided with the previous Amendment.

The Claims

The Examiner has maintained his rejection of the independent claims as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,629,982 to Micali ("Micali") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,633,916 to Goldhagen et al. ("Goldhagen").

Claims 1-9, 22 and 23

Claim 1 has been amended to require that messages be sent from a caller CPE to a callee CPE, and that the information packets be received at the callee CPE from the caller CPE and are readable by the callee CPE.

The Micali reference cited by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1 utilizes a "middleman" post office to generate return receipts. In the embodiment cited by the Examiner, the sender Alice transmits to the Post Office a message that is encrypted as to the post office but readable by recipient Bob (Micali, col. 11, lines 62-65). The Post Office further encrypts the message so

it is not readable by Bob, and sends that information to him (col. 12, lines 6-7). After Bob acknowledges receipt of that encrypted message to the Post Office (col. 12, lines 17-19), the Post Office sends Alice a receipt and sends Bob a copy of the message readable by him (col. 12, lines 26-34).

In the complex Micali system, Bob does not receive a readable message until he acknowledges receipt of the encrypted message, and so must trust the Post Office to send final copy of the message readable by him. In contrast, claim 1 requires that the packets received from the caller CPE are readable by the callee CPE. For example, a voice mail message is readable by the recipient.

Applicant therefore submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, and that the dependent claims are patentable at least by reason of their dependencies.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been amended to require that the attaching and sending steps be performed by the message recipient whom the electronic receipt indicates received the message. In the system of Micali, those functions are performed by the post office, while the receipt indicates that the recipient Bob received the message. For at least that reason, Applicant submits that claim 10 is patentable over the prior art.

Claims 11 – 18, 21 and 24

Claim 11 has been amended to require that the customer premises equipment receives the message, and that the certification sent by the CPE is that the message was received by the CPE.

In contrast, the receipt sent by the post office of Micali certifies that Bob received the message; i.e., the certifier is different from the recipient.

Applicant therefore submits that independent claim 11, and those claims depending from claim 11, are patentable over the cited art at least for that reason.

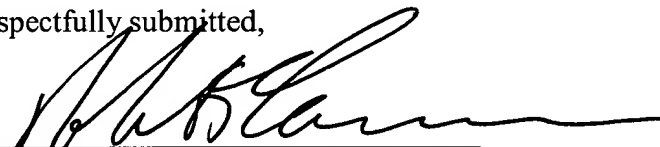
Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that all the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Robert T. Canavan

Reg. No. 37,592

Telephone: 908-707-1568

Canavan & Monka LLC
805 Partridge Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Date: 12/15/09